

In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for minimizing the Inter-Document Zone (IDZ) in multi-pass printing system architectures, with print engines employing asynchronous paper delivery,; and providing control over paper feed and imaging times comprising:

a) receiving input electronic data of an image intended to be printed on a recording medium;

b) inspecting said electronic data to determine a lead edge blank border of said image, the lead edge blank border being a portion of the electronic data of the image corresponding to an area located at a leading edge of the recording medium onto which no marking material is to be deposited, the lead edge blank border having a first dimension parallel to a direction the recording medium is being transported and a second dimension perpendicular to a direction the recording medium is being transported;

c) determining, on a page by page basis, whether a length of the lead edge blank border, in the first dimension, exceeds a predetermined distance; and

d) adjusting, on a page by page basis, imaging and paper delivery timing accordingly to increase subsequent printing speed when length of the lead edge blank border, in the first dimension, exceeds a predetermined distance.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein when the lead edge blank border exceeds the predetermined distance, the images corresponding to that page is printed sooner than a nominal situation.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

e inspecting said electronic data to determine a trail edge blank border of said image, the trail edge blank border being a portion of the electronic data of the image corresponding to an area located at a trailing edge of the recording medium onto which no marking material is to be deposited, the trail edge blank border having a first dimension parallel to a direction the recording medium is being transported and a second dimension perpendicular to a direction the recording medium is being transported;

f) determining, on a page by page basis, whether the trail edge blank border exceed a predetermined distance; and

g) adjusting, on a page by page basis, imaging and paper delivery timing accordingly to increase subsequent printing speed when the length of the trail edge blank border, in the first dimension, exceeds the predetermined distance such that the image corresponding a subsequent document is printed sooner than a nominal situation.

Claims 4-20 (Cancelled)